

## Message Text

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611

ORIGIN OES-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 L-03 NSF-01 COME-00 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 /023 R

DRAFTED BY OES/APT/SA:IMPIKUS  
APPROVED BY OES/APT/SA:IMPIKUS  
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AF/E: MR. BARRETT  
NSF: P. WILKNISS

----- 124915

R 220036Z NOV 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, ET

SUBJECT: DOWNED CARRIER BALLOON

1. ON NOV. 17, 1975, 0800Z A CARRIER BALLOON DESCENDED TO SURFACE AT APPROX. 7.0 DEGREES N. LATITUDE AND 36.5 DEGREES E. LONGITUDE IN MOUNTAINS OF ETHIOPIA.

2. BALLOON, ONE OF SERIES OF 12 FLIGHT TEST OF SYSTEM TO BE USED IN FIRST GARP GLOBAL EXPERIMENT (FGGE) WAS LAUNCHED KOUROU, FRENCH GUIANA, 30 OCT. 1975. FGGE IS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM METEOROLOGICAL RESEARCH, RESULTS OF WHICH WILL BE OPENLY DISTRIBUTED TO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. SYSTEM DESIGNED TO PROVIDE INFO. ATMOSPHERIC DYNAMICS AT ABOUT 80,000 FT. ALT. BETWEEN 10 DEGREES N. AND 10 DEGREES S. LATITUDES.

3. BALLOON IS PLASTIC, 20 METERS DIAMETER, SUPER-PRESSURE TYPE, DESIGNED STABLE 80,000 FT. ALT. AND  
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CARRIES PAYLOAD WEIGHING 100 KGM. PAYLOAD COMPRISES

BOX OF DROPSONDES, ELECTRONICS GEAR AND CUT-DOWN MECHANISMS.

4. SYSTEM USES THREE CUT-DOWN SUB-SYSTEMS: PARACHUTE DESCENT ACTUATED BY SATELLITE LINK VIA SMS-2 AND/OR GEOS-A; PARACHUTE DESCENT ACTUATED BY 90 DAY TIMER; AND SLOW DESCENT BY CONTROLLED RELEASE OF BALLOON GAS ACTUATED BY COMMAND VIA HF SIGNAL FROM GROUND STATION.

5. BALLOON IN QUESTION WAS NOT CUT DOWN BY ANY OF THESE SUB-SYSTEMS BUT APPEARS TO HAVE DEVELOPED SLOW LEAK.

6. BELIEVE PAYLOAD OF DOWNED BALLOON NOW COMPRISES: DROPSONDE DISPENSER BOX, 1 METER CUBE, CONTAINING 30 DROPSONDES; CUBIC WHITE BOX 20 CM ON SIDE CONTAINING ELECTRONICS GEAR; AND A METALLIC PRESSURE VALVE LOCATED ALONGSIDE WHITE BOX.

7. REQUEST EMBASSY INFORM GOE OF SITUATION. FYI: IF GOE RECOVERS PAYLOAD AND DESIRES TO RETURN IT, NSF THROUGH ITS CONTRACTOR NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH, WILLING TO PAY UP TO \$2000 PLUS FREIGHT DEPENDING ON CONDITION OF PAYLOAD. UPON OFFER OF RETURN EMBASSY SHOULD CONTACT OES/APT/SA FOR INSTRUCTIONS. END FYI. KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES, METEOROLOGICAL BALLOONS, WEATHER SATELLITES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Subject:** DOWNED CARRIER BALLOON  
**TAGS:** TPHY, ET  
**To:** ADDIS ABABA  
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